

President's Message

Hello Unit 499!

Short days, long deep nights, time askance as the season shortens. Colors starting to mute to dull dead brown, the same color as dirt. Sun warming for a few moments undertaking.

Unit 499 presented the Fall Sectional at Dougherty Valley High School. It is with pride and deep gratitude that I share a well-written and thoughtful email from our wonderful Tournament Chair Anne Hollingsworth. I couldn't have done better myself!

Hello, Fellow Board Members,

Wow! We had a very successful Diablo Valley Fall Sectional!!! After only having 173 tables last fall, what a thrill it was to have 225 tables this past weekend. That's a huge increase, and one of the best table-counts in the past few years for the fall. For all who attended, it was wonderful to look around the playing area and see almost all the tables in the room full with players. We'll now have to await Sam's report of how we did with the financial results, but we should definitely be in the black.

I want to thank all of YOU for making this tournament the great event that it was. I received lots of positive feedback from our players, and each of you helped make this a fun bridge event for all. The below notes are in no special order.

- Sam - we all owe a big thanks to you for finding us two very able young adults to help with the Saturday morning set-up. They ensured the tables and chairs were in place quickly, and supplies were on the tables well in advance of the games. Another shout out to you for finding a caddy for us for Sunday. Jeffrey was a first timer, and a very quick study. He, along with fellow caddy, Avery, moved the boards to the proper tables timely. They were also a big help with the clean-up on Sunday. The director commented on how good they were. I am hoping they will join us for future sectionals now that they know the ropes of caddying. You were also our "money bags" - bringing change for the lunches, tallying the cash that was received, paying for the venue, and now paying all the expenses for the event. You did it all with a smile.*



- *Our hospitality crew was amazing - Marian, Lyn, Karen, Lisa, Claire, and Dori, as well as others who did all the shopping and helped in the mornings with the food prep and organization- you were fabulous at providing our players with refreshments.*
- *Dori - you keep hospitality running during the full days of games. You have a great skill as knowing how to ensure there are snacks of the right kind, watch to be sure there are drinks available, water and ice. You do this all with such ease!*
- *Rich - we truly appreciate you storing all of our supplies and bringing them to our sectional. It takes a lot of effort to load and unload all of the bins and boxes each time, and for arriving early and staying late.*
- *Andy F - when we needed a run to the store on Saturday morning for garbage bags for the tables, you quickly got in your car and went shopping. When you returned, you and Michael, as well as others, helped get the bags tied to the tables in record time. In addition, I appreciated your willingness to partner with the one player who asked early on about a partner. You weren't quite sure what to expect, but you two had a strong game for first timers - finishing third overall in mid-flight pairs. Is this the beginning of a new partnership?*
- *Bruce - what would we do without you and your tape measure to ensure the tables are properly spaced to meet ACBL requirements? I am glad to know you always have a tape measure with you.*
- *Andy S - you were a big help with the Saturday morning set-up, tying garbage bags, helping sell lunches, and with the Sunday breakdown.*
- *Lyn - thank you for being in charge of the lunch orders. With our new vendor, Eric's Deli, we had the flexibility to increase our order so we would have the right number of sandwiches. Thanks for making the call on Sunday to request more sandwiches. Over this year, you have kept your eye on the ball to ensure everything was ready for the tournament.*

I know I have likely missed recognizing someone/something. My apologies if I have. I hope each of you have gotten some rest since the tournament to be ready for more bridge and the holidays!

I'll see you again soon at the tables. And thanks again.

Best,

Anne

Thank you, Anne for a superb job!

Warm wishes for delightful holidays during this month of December!

Lyn Sacco, President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
From The Editor	3
Unit 499 Milestones	4
Unit News	5
Bridge Columns	9
Club News	12

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NOTE NEW EMAIL FOR JUDY IS

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To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at

jkeilin@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fall Sectional

Thank you to the people that brought baked items to the Fall Sectional. They were enjoyed and we appreciate your time.

Marian Renvall

...from the Editor

I hope you all are bragging about all the points you are winning at the Nationals. We are truly lucky to have this event so close to home.

Even closer to home, our Sectional was a great success as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. I think everyone knows that Unit 499 has the best Sectional.

Check out the article from Unit 499 member, Gary Bingham. Playing bridge while traveling is a great way to experience a new place.

Enjoy the holidays, and find some time to play bridge. STaC Week is coming soon – earn those elusive silver points!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

diablovalleybridge.com/cbc

Mary Krouse, Publisher



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Joanne Thorne

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Karen Peterson

NEW NABC MASTERS

Suresh Radar

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Sue Eltringham

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Bell

Boris Erlank

Karen Siefert

Court Smith

Ivan Stoimirov

Novena Stoimirov

Let's greet these new members
and welcome them when you meet
them at the tables.



Fall Sectional Results

The Diablo Valley Unit 499 Fall Sectional held at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, was a big success. Thanks to all of you who attended, it was our largest turnover for a fall tournament in many years.

If you were there on Saturday, the room was near capacity. Some players had to stand for a few minutes as more tables were set up. For the first time, we offered pairs games on Sunday, which added 14 tables to our count. We appreciated learning that people would like to come and play, and may not have a team, so this provided them an opportunity to participate in the sectional. We had 225 tables over the two day event. What a good story to share.

Our unit had some top place winners at the event:

Saturday Morning 99ers: Ann Wyatt and Cathy Adams

Saturday Afternoon 499ers: Karen Corburn and partner Kevin Patterson

Mid-Flight Paris: Brian Eisenberg and Thomas Franklin III (all smiles below after the top finish)



Sunday Morning Pairs: Donna Barker and Kathleen Young (earnings lots of silver points in this single game event!)



Sunday Afternoon Pairs: Tying for top honors were Mark Curtis/Richard Ahl

Sunday Bracket 3 Swiss Teams: Andy Fine, Michael Kruley, Rosalind and Gerald Cunha

Sunday Bracket 5 Swiss Teams: Sam Earnhardt, Suresh Gadad, Kerry Smith and Barry Rauchl (always great to win your bracket!)



When you see members of the Unit 499 Board, thank them for all their work to make the sectional happen. Every Board member plays a role from publicity, to set up and clean up, collecting the money and paying the bills, and welcoming the players.

We hope you will join us at our Spring Sectional, also at Dougherty Valley High School, on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26. Come and Play!

Anne Hollingsworth
Chair, Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

Bridge in Pattaya, Thailand

I have been going to Thailand for many years and playing bridge and golf there. I returned November 26, 2019 from my most recent trip. During this trip I played bridge four times in a week and a half. The group meets and plays at the Jomtien and Pattaya Bridge Club. You can see their web site under that name. The website is a full site with tournaments, club champions, and medals earned posted. The group meets to play on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1pm. This makes it a challenge to play golf for me because those are the days that most golf groups play. I am still able to get my golf in with established groups. The people who play in this group are from all over the world and speak many languages. Many foreign languages are overheard, including Swedish, Norwegian, and German. This year I played with an English cabby, and Australian Army Officer and a Norwegian person. Many of these people I have played with for years and have a relationship with. Bidding is in English. Many of these players have advance bridge playing skills and many are developing, such as myself. Each year I try to visit the group and play bridge with them. They are overall very friendly. This was my 24th trip to Thailand and my 23rd trip to Pattaya.

A few years ago, the police arrested the entire group of bridge players playing that particular day in the Jomtien and Pattaya Bridge Club for gambling. Fortunately, I was not playing at the time of the arrests. They were hauled down to the police station and required to post bail. This charge was subsequently dropped and the Thai Police captain responsible was later demoted. As it turned out, a jealous girlfriend of one of the employees at the club reported it to the police. The police who made the arrest did not realize that us bridge players play for points. This arrest of bridge players was reported in the international press and was a major scandal for Thailand. A Thailand government program was started afterwards indicating that they were positive to bridge players. Major bridge tournaments take place in Thailand and there was concern that there would be a loss revenue if they did not taking place.

The Pattaya bridge group has a new system for keeping track of the scores. They use items at each table similar to iPhones, on which the scores are recorded online and are posted to the system via the Internet. This system is very modern and expensive. Each device cost over \$2,000 and was a gift from one of the people who visits here and plays bridge, Avon Wilsmore, who is also the author of the book titled: Under the Table, The Case Against the Blue Team. Dave, one of the primary coordinators for the group gave me a copy of the book. The book is about the world champion Italian bridge team who were proven to be cheating and were sanctioned not to compete internationally in bridge tournaments for a number of years. I look forward to reading the book.

It is usually an adventure for me to get to the bridge club. I do not rent a car. I will take up to two-baht buses and a motorcycle taxi to get there. This calculates to less than \$3 U.S. currency. Conventional taxis are available.

I recommend that if you visit Pattaya, Thailand, you should drop by for a bridge game. There is free coffee and water, with other drinks available for purchase during play. The fee for play is affordable.

Please see my blog for more information on this trip and pictures: binghamevent.blogspot.com.

Gary Bingham



HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

The first recorded date of Christmas was celebrated on December 25th in 336 A.D. during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (he was the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I, officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December.

Today, it's now a Holiday Season,, celebrated by many. We may choose to deck the halls with boughs of holly, get on the road and try to be jolly, and watch the drivers cut you off. You scrabble for the right gifts, and get into tiffs. Oh! What a time to be so melancholy.

Whatever the case, the holidays can be a time of sorrow too. Some folks don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who won't be able to come home for various reasons. A wonderful holiday dinner may be only a wish, and for some, not even reality. I especially think of the fire and hurricane victims. Time to count our blessings.

When it comes to us optimistic bridge players, this Holiday Season brings lots of opportunities, like the warmth and coziness of playing at your local bridge club, a fun-filled day, with the only wish that may come true - winning a Master Point or two.

Our Board can really put on the Ritz! I'm so proud of all our members. We had a very successful Diablo Valley Fall Sectional. Last year's tournament, we had approximately 173 tables, but this year, we pumped up the volume, and what a thrill! We had 225 tables. This was an over-the-top table-count for a Fall Sectional.

Holiday Cheer was spilled over onto every attendee. All relished the snacks and goodies, and lunch was happily received. This great weekend was the result of a working Board that really "works hard for no money." With their help. Lyn Sacco, our President, always provides bridge players with a fun environment. So much work goes into providing these types of events, and as the worker bees know, their behind-the-scenes efforts sometimes go unnoticed. However, they're reflected on the folks, "Singing our praises for a weekend, well spent."

Thank you all for helping make this Sectional a grand one.. Don't forget to check our website for personal game results.

Cheers to a good year+++

Lisa Assoni /The ShortCut Cook.



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

December, 2019

North

S K743

H J62

D AQ6

C Q98

West

S QJ52

H Q84

D 1032

C J42

East

S 1096

H K10753

D J875

C A

South

S A8

H A9

D K94

C K107653



This deal is from a local club game and demonstrates the importance of understanding how suits divide.

I opened 1C and my partner responded 1S, East then said 2H, I said 3C, West raised to 3H and my partner ended the auction with 5C.

The opening lead was the 4H and it went 2, 10 with my winning the A. In evaluating this hand, it has 1 heart loser and 1 club loser for sure. My thinking was the opponents made a lot of noise without many points so one of them is short in clubs and it is likely to be East. When there are 4 cards missing in a suit it is more likely to split 3-1 than 2-2 and I cannot afford to lose an honor to the singleton ace so with that in mind I led a spade to the K and called for the 8 of clubs and when the ace popped up I was able to only lose the heart and then trump the next heart, draw the remaining clubs and claim.

When I examined the results I saw that several people were going down in 5C and that was because they led a club to the Q and later lost to the J.

West was likely to have a smattering of points to raise and in order for East to have a 2 level overcall it should include the ace of clubs.

It is very important to put this all together before drawing the trumps.

Jerry Weitzner

Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

THE "LEBENSOHL" CONVENTION AFTER OPPONENT'S WEAK TWO-BID (Part 2)

Last time we showed how to use "Lebensohl" after Partner's takeout double of a weak 2-bid. Bids were described for point ranges: Weak (0-6) and Constructive (7-10). This week we discuss Partner's Game Forcing hands and Doubler's extra strong hands.

Game Forcing Hands (11+ HCP)

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♦/2♥/2♠	Dbl	Pass	???

There are several treatments of various sophistication for game forcing hands. Here is a simple straightforward one. For other options there are many sources on the internet.



1. An immediate jump in a new suit in response to the double is forcing to game.
2. An immediate bid of 3NT shows good stoppers in Opener's suit. If Opponent's suit is a major, it tends to deny 4 cards in the other major.
3. A cue-bid of Opener's major suit asks Doubler to bid 3NT with a stopper.

A jump cue-bid in Opener's major suit shows both minors. If Opener's suit is diamonds, the jump cue-bid shows both majors.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♦	Dbl	Pass	???

As South what is your bid holding the following hands?

♠KQ75	♥83	♦A742	♣K5
♠KQ4	♥QJ5	♦A852	♣1085
♠A975	♥AJ875	♦6	♣A53

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	???

♠97	♥K75	♦K53	♣AQJ95
♠J53	♥A9865	♦J98	♣Q43
♠63	♥6	♦AK532	♣KQ965

Doubler's Rebids

Most of the time Doubler will accept Partner's 2NT relay or proceed according to Partner's otherwise indicated strength. But, When Doubler has a really good hand, for example, a good suit of his own with extra strength or a balanced 19+ HCP, he shows this by ignoring Advancer's 2NT relay and bids a suit of his own.

As North, the Doubler, what is your rebid with the following hands.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	???		

♠96	♥KQ75	♦AK53	♣QJ9
♠4	♥AQ753	♦AQ87	♣AK7
♠AJ9	♥AK74	♦KJ9	♣A84

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♣
Pass	???		

♠KJ96	♥75	♦AK53	♣QJ9
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Answers

Bid 3♠. Your direct jump is forcing to game.

Bid 3NT. You have a stopper in diamonds and no 4-card major.

Bid 4♦. The jump cue-bid shows both majors.

Bid 3♠. The immediate cue-bid asks Partner to bid 3NT if he holds a stopper in spades.

Bid 3♥. Bidding your suit directly at the three level is constructive. If you had used the 2NT relay and then bid hearts, it would show a much weaker hand.

Bid 4♠. The jump cue-bid of a major suit shows both minors.

Bid 3♣. You are about minimum for the double of 2♠, so accept the relay. Let Partner describe his hand.

Bid 3♥. By ignoring the relay you show a very good hand. Note, however, that your bid is not absolutely forcing.

Bid 3NT. You have good spade stoppers and a big hand. You could be missing a 4-4 heart fit, but that's what preempts do to you.

Pass. Partner's bid at the 3-level is constructive, but you have nothing extra.

Club News

This section is for club owners and managers who wish to submit news about their games. Please go to our website for information about all our clubs, game times, and to check on the latest results.

Diablovalleybridge.com

Carol Griffin

And all year round there is: **Drop-in** bridge Thursdays from 10-noon for social supervised bridge and "**Newplicate**" (for those who are new to duplicate) on Tuesdays from 12:30-4pm All activities are at the new lovely location of Wilder Ranch (except for Newplicate), just 1/4 mile beyond Orinda exit off of Highway 24

Carol also offers a variety of classes at Lafayette Community Center on Mondays and at Wilder Ranch club house (thru Orinda Community center) on Thursdays. Please contact the appropriate community center for details or visit her website at: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com

Carol T Griffin

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Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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Email: nobidd45@gmail.com

Web Site: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com

If this is an emergency please call as I do not necessarily look at my email every day.





ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

The Board is happy to announce the month of December will be FREE for all club members except for STAC Week.

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club will have its annual HOLIDAY LUNCH on Monday, December 9. Lunch will be served at 11:30am in the Oak Room at Gateway. This will be followed by a brief annual meeting and election of new board members.

The week of December 9-14 will be Holiday STAC Week.

Kit Miller

Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

lilahnewton@yahoo.com



On December 4, the Blackhawk Ladies' Duplicate group will have their annual Holiday Party in the Main Dining Room of the Lakeside Clubhouse. We invite our gentlemen friends to join us for this very special upgraded club championship. Play begins at 9:30 accompanied by coffee and pastry. We will play our game and then have a served lunch of a cup of soup followed by an entree salad. Belgian chocolates will be passed afterward. Cost of lunch is \$21 plus bridge fee of \$7 for a total of \$28 for the day. Reservations may be made by contacting Lilah Newton at lilahnewton@yahoo.com or 925-648-3154 or Sharon Tarpinian at enchantment-s@comcast.net or 925-736-2461.

Lilah Newton

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Our Wednesday and Saturday games run 10am to about 2pm with snacks and beverages included. Following Open Game Board Play we offer a light potluck lunch with an opportunity to discuss the hands using hand records. Contributions of snacks and shared food dishes are welcome. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of the month, and a pair game on the Saturday of STaC Week. We are now holding Limited Pair Games (less than 299 master points) on the second and fourth Fridays (no lunch following the Friday games).

Reservations are required in advance for all games. If we have enough notice we can usually arrange for partnerships. You may reserve games in advance when you know your schedule.

Our neighbor directly across the street at 184 Corliss has requested that we leave the equivalent of at least three parking spaces open in front of their home at all times. We also ask that you not park directly in front of any of our neighbors' mail boxes, or too close to disposal containers left at the curb for pick-up that day. We learned recently that the mailman refused to deliver a neighbor's mail due to a car parked blocking the mailbox. Please help us be good neighbors!

Congratulations to some of our first place players in Sections A, B or C since the last Newsletter:

Mike Whitaker & Bill Schultz, Al & Felicity Warner, Jerry Weitzner & Darrell Fung (twice), Steve Oliver & Bill Burns, Irwin Javinsky & Malcolm Mendelson (twice), Holly Chapin & Leslie Wagstaff, Bruce Silverman & Marian Renvall, Dennis & Renee Ross (twice), Bob & Annette Horwitz, Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, Martha Ann Wishnev & Joyce Ellenberg, and Melinda Hall & Marian Renvall.

Upcoming Schedule

December 2019

Wed. 12/4 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 12/11 STaC Pair Game \$11

Fri. 12/13 STaC 299er Pair Game \$11

Sat. 12/14 STaC Pair Game \$11

Wed. 12/18 Food Bank Charity Pair Game \$11

Sat. 12/21 Club Championship Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 12/25 NO GAME

Fri. 12/27 Food Bank 299er Pair Game \$10

January 2020

Wed. 1/1 NO GAME

Wed. 1/8 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Fri. 1/10 Junior Fund Charity Pair 299er \$10

Wed. 1/15 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Sat. 1/18 Club Championship Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 1/22 Club Championship Pair \$10

Fri. 1/24 Club Championship Pair 299er \$10

Wed. 1/29 NO GAME

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

Winnie@wjasper.com; 925-376-1125

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

Lamorinda Bridge Club

The location is our home:

183 Corliss Drive , Moraga 94556

(on the corner of Corliss and Crossbrook Drives at the stop sign)

On-street parking

[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

Reservations required:

Winnie: Winnie@wjasper.com or [925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125) (home)

Jerry: [925-766-5228](tel:925-766-5228) (cell)



The Moraga Evening Duplicate

The Moraga Country Club duplicate bridge game is each Tuesday night at 7pm. Reservations are required with David Geary at cocgeary@gmail.com. ACBL Master Points, hand records, \$3 per person.

10/22/2019 - 3 tables

- 1 - David Goldberg & Mal Mendelson
- 2 - Stephanie Kung & Blair Hoffman
- 3 - Art Donaldson & David Geary

11/5/2019 - 3 tables

- 1 - Anne Hetland & Jackie Birdsong
- 2 - Anne Hollingsworth & Blair Hoffman
- 3 - Ashok Chakradeo & Derek Southern

Regards, David Geary

